

INTRODUCTION

International Cooperation in Peacekeeping: role of DCAF

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Co-operation with parliaments and parliamentary staffers and the strengthening of parliamentary competence in the emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe is one of the most important and noble tasks the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) has assumed.¹

The cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Parliamentary Assembly, in collaboration with the Moscow-based Center for Political and International Studies directed by Dr. Alexander I. Nikitin, has been among the most successful and promising programmes so far. Not only has the CIS IPA accepted a Model Law «On Parliamentary Oversight of the State Military Organization»,² but further cooperation has led to the draft Law «On Peace-Keeping Operations» which may soon be endorsed as a Model Law for all CIS member countries.

This volume features presentations from the November 2003

¹ Among the most successful cooperation programmes are DCAF's projects in Ukraine, Georgia, Serbia-Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The DCAF Handbook on Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector (created in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union) is being published in twenty-three different languages and is a standard work on good practices in Parliamentary Oversight.

² «Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Model Law On Parliamentary Oversight of the State Military Organisation», DCAF Documents, No. 1, March 2002, available in English at

http://www.dcaf.ch/publications/DCAF_Documents/DCAF.DOC1.1.pdf

and in Russian at

[http://www.dcaf.ch/publications/DCAF_Documents/DCAF.DOC1.1\(R\).pdf](http://www.dcaf.ch/publications/DCAF_Documents/DCAF.DOC1.1(R).pdf).

St. Petersburg Conference on «Peacekeeping in the CIS». The three-day conference, co-organised with the CIS Parliamentary Assembly Defence Committee and CPIS and funded by DCAF, was held at the historic Tavrichesky Palace. Exchanges on parliamentary involvement and oversight of peacekeeping were rounded off with discussions on security sector governance and civil society involvement in security sector reform. Especially welcome was the stimulating participation of representatives of the CIS Staff for Coordination of Military Cooperation.

The volume is the latest publication in the «Military and Society» series started with the CPIS in Moscow during 2002. The series explains concepts of security sector governance to parliamentarians, commanding officers from the armed and other security sector forces, defence and security experts. Earlier publications dealt with the Model Law on the Parliamentary Oversight of the State Military Organisation (Moscow 2002) and Legislation on Military-Civil Relations (Moscow 2003).

DCAF seeks to continue its cooperation with parliamentarians and experts from the CIS in various fora. DCAF research and documentation activities in 2004 will look into comparative aspects of peace-keeping and the role of civilians in Defence Ministries in the CIS.

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